



NEWS RELEASE

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“FLORIDA SAFERIDERS” BREAK GROUND AT JEFFERSON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK WITH HELP FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MONTICELLO, FL, August 11, 2004 — The Jefferson County Industrial Park will soon be home to “Florida SafeRiders,” a small and emerging business that provides motorcycle education and training. The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners is providing a site in the industrial park for the business. Today’s groundbreaking ceremony marks construction of the training facility, which includes a building containing classrooms and offices as well as an outside motorcycle training course. The county will manage the building, which will be leased to Florida SafeRiders at market value.

Florida SafeRiders is relocating a training center to Monticello, Florida, to train law enforcement officers and the public in the safe operation of motorcycles. Training consists of a 16-hour course taught over a two day period. The average course has 12 students, requiring a combination of 16 hours of classroom and practical range activities. Initially, Florida SafeRiders, Inc. is committed to hiring seven fulltime employees.

Construction of the SafeRiders building and motorcycle course was made possible through USDA Rural Development funding of \$258,716 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds. “Investing in the economic vitality of the Jefferson County Industrial Park supports President Bush's vision for a strong and vibrant rural America,” said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. “Rural Development is pleased to be a partner in promoting economic development and job growth in Jefferson County.” In addition to new jobs, it is anticipated that Monticello area merchants will receive an economic boost through the 1,500 to 1,800 students expected to pass through the facility annually.

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities and is the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through Rural Housing Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Programs and Rural Utilities Programs. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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